

NOTES ON THE GENUS *ISOMIRA* (ALLECULIDAE),  
AND A NEW SPECIES FROM ARIZONA

(Notes on North American Coleoptera, No. 2)

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A new species of alleculid beetle was recently taken in southern Arizona by Dr. John Adams Comstock, which is herein described, and its relationship to certain other members of the genus briefly discussed.

A list of all members of the genus occurring in the United States is appended. The numbers preceding each species are those of the Leng's Catalogue of the Coleoptera of America, North of Mexico.

11305. *Isomira discolor* Csy. (Annals N.Y. Acad. Sci., VI. Nov. 1891, No. 2, p. 145-146). — A moderately convex, piceous black, rather strongly shining, elongate-elliptical species, with throughout concolorous antennae and legs, pronotum and prosternum pale ferruginous, the pubescence fine, very short and sparse. The head distinctly shining, the comparatively wide interspaces of the punctures being polished. Small, 3.5 — 4.0 mm.

Described from California. Fairly rare: 3 specimens collected by R. Hopping in Kaweah, Calif. are in the collection of Mr. G. P. Mackenzie (San Marino, Calif.) and one specimen collected by the writer on July 2nd, 1956 in the Tokopeh Valley, Sequoia National Park, Calif. on about 7,000 ft. elevation.

11307. *Isomira sericea* (Say). (Journ. Ac. N.S. Phila. III, 1823, p. 270). — This is an eastern species, previously reported from Massachusetts to North Carolina, Florida and Indiana. Specimens from Baltimore, Maryland (collected by F. E. Blaisdell, June 26, 1909) and Pelham, Mass. (by Marion E. Smith, June 6, 1942) are in the Mackenzie collection and in that of the author, as are also 8 specimens from Rochester, N.Y. (by F. C. Fletcher, July 26, 1947).

*I. sericea* are elongate-elliptical, evenly convex, feebly shining beetles, with fine pubescence. The head is dull, densely punctate and evenly convex. Antennae long and slender, nearly two-thirds as long as the body, and the fourth joints are equal in both sexes. The prothorax is one-half wider than long, the sides rounded anteriorly, nearly straight and parallel in basal half. The elytra are nearly four times longer than the prothorax, the narrowly rounded humeri wider than the thoracic base, rather acute at apex, finely punctured with three or four impressed striae near the suture, and more strongly marked at apex. Where the striae are deeply impressed they become very minutely punctate. Elsewhere there is no trace of serial punctuation.

The under surface is shining; the abdomen very minutely but feebly and densely punctate.

Legs, very slender. The eyes of the female are slightly smaller than those of the male, and the joints of the antennae somewhat shorter and thicker. Medium large species: 4.5 – 5.5 mm.

11308. *Isomira variabilis* (Horn). (Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. V, 1875, p. 156). — A western species, fairly common in Washington State. Many specimens from Salmon Arm, British Columbia (collected by Dr. H. B. Leech, June 12, 1934) are in the authors' and also in the Mackenzie collection. Two specimens from Trout Lake, B.C. (by E. Hamling, June 23, 1942), one from Lake Arrowhead (June 10, 1939) and Mt. Wilson, Calif. (June 15, 1940) collected by and are in the Mackenzie collection. No specimens reported recently from California (Horn, l. c.: "Occurs rather abundantly all over California").

The head is nearly evenly convex, finely punctate; eyes small; antennae slender, filiform, and half as long as body. The prothorax is about two-thirds wider than long, and gradually narrowed from base to apex; sides broadly rounded anteriorly; disc densely and rather finely punctate. The elytra are approximately three and one-third times longer than is the prothorax, one-third to one-half wider in the center, and somewhat rounded at apex. The disc shows scarcely a trace of impressed striae.

Abdomen minutely punctate, the metasternum coarsely and rather densely so; prosternum dull and very densely punctured. The legs are pale and slender.

In the male the eyes are separated by about three times their width. — Fairly large species: 4.3 – 5.9 mm.

11309. *Isomira luscitiosa* Csy. (Annals N.Y. Acad. Sci., VI, November 1891, No. 2, p. 148-149). — Generally slightly broader behind, rather narrowly oval, dull, dark piceous brown with blackish portions on the anterior; pubescence fine, short, moderately dense. The head evenly convex, very densely, rather coarsely punctate; eyes very small and unusually convex. The antennae are filiform, slender, three-fifths as long as the body. The prothorax is three-fourths wider than long with broadly rounded sides which are almost straight and parallel toward the base; disc extremely densely punctate, the punctures rather coarse. Elytra about three times as long as the prothorax, and, at or behind the middle, nearly one half wider, the two bases equal; apex rather abruptly but acutely rounded; disc finely but distinctly punctate, without trace of impressed striae. Legs slender, moderate in length, the basal joint of the hind tarsi shorter than the remainder. Small species: 4.0 – 4.3 mm in length.

Seven specimens in my collection from southern California: Lake Arrowhead, San Gabriel Canyon, Azusa and Mt. Wilson are

the localities. During May and June on wild flowers. Four specimens from the same locations are in the Mackenzie collection.

11310. *Isomira pulla* (Melsh.) — (Proc. Ac. Phil., III. 1846, p. 60.). — This is an eastern species, ranging from Rhode Island to North Carolina. My collection contains four specimens from Tampa, Florida, the southernmost recorded point of its distribution. Four specimens in the Mackenzie collection from Baltimore, Maryland (June 16, 1909, collected by F. E. Blaisdell).

The head of *I. pulla* is finely and very densely punctate, the surface almost flat; eyes small; antennae slender, about half as long as the body. The prothorax is three-fourths wider than long, strongly narrowed from base to apex, with almost evenly arcuate sides. The apex is more than one half as wide as the base, the latter being transverse, the angles right, not distinctly rounded. Elytra nearly three times longer than the prothorax, and beyond the middle nearly two-fifths wider. The base is equal in width to the thoracic base. Apex moderately acute, the disc punctured and with subsutural striae nearly as in *I. sericea*, but the punctures are slightly coarser and a little sparser. — Length 5.0 — 5.5 mm.

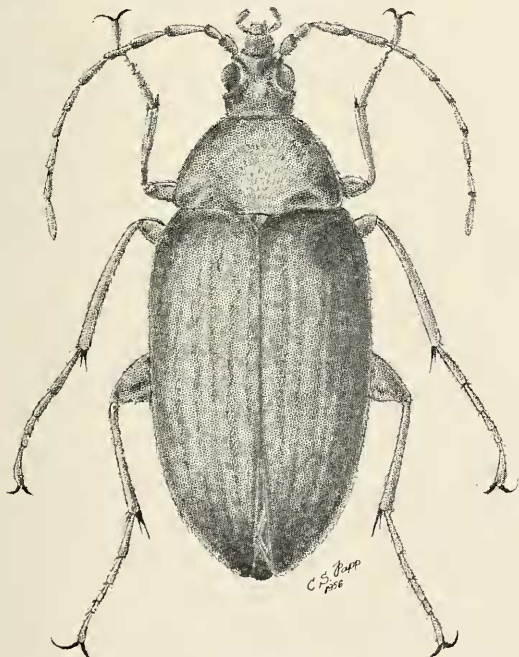


PLATE 34

*Isomira comstocki*. Enlarged X14

— *Isomira comstocki* new species. — Small, narrowly oval, head dark, prothorax slightly red-brown, elytra with very fine pale yellow pubescence.

HEAD brown, finely and very densely punctate, the surface almost flat, slightly elevated between the eyes where the punctuation is heavier and the color black or blackish brown. Antennae filiform, about half as long as the body.

PROTHORAX wider than long, strongly narrowed from base to apex. The base and a longitudinal depression in the middle of the prothorax, reddish-brown.

ELYTRA more than three times longer than the prothorax and wider at the shoulders than the middle, then becoming broader and at the apex moderately rounded. Pale yellowish-brown in color, and slightly blackish-brown near the scutellum. Disc densely rounded, with four striae running continuously from shoulder nearly to the apex. Surface pale, with yellowish-brown pubescence.

ABDOMEN dark brown, finely punctate and shining. Legs are long and slender, light brown in color.

Length: 4.5 – 5.0 mm.

HOLOTYPE: Santa Rita Mountains, Madera Canyon, Arizona, August 2, 1954, collected by Dr. J. A. Comstock, to be placed in the coleoptera collection of the Los Angeles County Museum, Department of Entomology.

PARATYPE NO. 1: Same locality, July 30, 1954 to be placed with the California Academy of Science, San Francisco, California.

PARATYPE NO. 2: Same locality, August 2, 1954, at present retained in the collection of the author.

The holotype and paratypes were collected by Dr. John Adams Comstock, to whom I dedicate the species.

The new species is intermediate between *I. pulla* (Melsh.) and *I. quadristriata* Coup.

11311. *Isomira quadristriata* Coup. (=velutina Lec.). (The Canadian Nat., 1865, p. 62. — Casey, Annals N.Y. Acad. Sci., VI, Nov. 1891, No. 2, p. 149-150). — A northern species, widely distributed from Canada (vicinity of Lake Superior) to North Carolina. Two specimens in my collection are from Rochester, N.Y. (July 3, 1947, collected by F. C. Fletcher) and three examples from Oswego, N.Y. (July 27, 1951, of my own collecting). Six specimens in the G. P. Mackenzie collection from Midland, Michigan (June 14, 1936, June 8, 1939 and June 14, 1940), Minnesmagua Lake, Ontario, Canada (July 13, 1938, collected by B. S. Bullock) and two examples from Yellowstone, Wyoming (June 13, 1938, collected by G. P. Mackenzie).

Head feebly and evenly convex, densely punctate, rather shining; eyes small; antennae filiform, half as long as the body. Prothorax nearly twice as wide as it is long, apex rather wide, two-thirds as wide as the base, the latter being transverse, very broadly and feebly arcuate towards the middle. Disc finely, deeply and more or less densely punctate. The basa fovea are almost obsolete. Elytra four times as long as the prothorax, one-fourth wider near the middle, and narrowly rounded to the apex. Disc finely and deeply, although sparsely punctate, with only the vaguest traces of impressed striae, except the two sutural, which become very pronounced toward the apex.—Larger species: 5.0 – 5.75 mm long.

Following is a list of all species of the genus *Isomira* Muls., found in the United States and Canada, separated into two distinct groups:

#### GROUP A:

Elytra without distinct series of punctures

11304	<i>iowensis</i> Csy.	— Iowa
11305	<i>discolor</i> Csy.	— California
11306	<i>tenebrosa</i> Csy.	— New York
11307	<i>sericea</i> (Say)	— Massachusetts to Carolina
11308	<i>variabilis</i> Horn	— California and Washington
11309	<i>luscitiosa</i> Csy.	— California
11310	<i>pulla</i> (Melsh.)	— Rhode Island to N. Carolina
11310½	<i>comstocki</i> Papp	— Southern Arizona (Santa Rita Mt.)
11311	<i>quadristriata</i> Coup. (syn. <i>velutina</i> Lec.)	— Southern Canada to N. Carolina and Indiana
11312	<i>similis</i> Blatch.	— Indiana
11313	<i>monticola</i> Csy.	— California
11314	<i>oblongula</i> Csy.	— New York and Indiana

#### GROUP B:

Elytra with series of more or less complete and sometimes feebly impressed small punctures.

11315	<i>valida</i> Sz.	— Florida
11316	<i>texana</i> Csy.	— Texas
11317	<i>ruficollis</i> Ham.	— Pennsylvania
11318	<i>ignora</i> Blatch.	— Florida